C. H. HOWARD

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A Short Outline
of a Useful Life

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Otis McGaw Howard

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CHARLES HENRY HOWARD
1838 - 1908

Forward

As his eldest son who traveled with him all through the west as a boy and who worked with him from 1890 till 1905, fifteen years in close personal contact, and the one who has been chosen to act as his biographer, I want to say of my father that in no other man whom I have ever known have I found such genuine purity of heart, such gentleness and unselfishness. Mingled at the same time with these kindly qualities, there was a forceful energy and enthusiasm, loyalty to his friends and to every cause which he espoused and the sturdiest of Christian characters which held him firmly in the path of righteousness for all the years of his life. The convictions which he first publicly ackn

CHAPTER I BOYHOOD AND YOUTH

CHARLES HENRY HOWARD was born in Leeds, Maine, a farming community twenty miles west of Hallowell, August 28, t838. The State of Maine was an offshoot of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and his parents had struck out into the northern wilderness just as truly pioneers in spirit as any of those who where engaged in the upbuilding of our nation.

His mother was Eliza Otis, daughter of Oliver Otis, a direct descendant of the revolutionary hero, James Otis, and sister of John Otis, member of Congress from Maine.

His father was Rowland Bailey Howard. The Howard family were among the early settlers of Massachusetts Bay Colony at Plymouth dating back to 1640 when John Howard came over from Norfolk and his son, Ensign Howard, was an officer under Captain Miles Standish in the first military company in New England.

In the autobiography of his brother, Oliver Otis, there is a description of their childhood home. It was a large, plain two-story house. The front hall was remarkable for the broad frieze extending around it, on which was inscribed in plain letters, near the ceiling, the name of the boy's grandfather, Seth Howard, repeated as often as necessary for the completion of the border. The house was on the northern slope of the "great hill" of Leeds. With its tall chimneys, its balustrade, its white color and green blinds it was "like a lighthouse on a promontory" as General O. O. says. It was seen and known for miles around as the residence of Captain Seth Howard.

When Charles was a lad of nine it seemed best that he should be sent to school at Kents Hill, Maine, and as it turned out he left the farm for good, except for occasional visits and vacations, but all his life he thought of himself, instinctively, as the son of a farmer and often referred to having been "brought up on a farm." He went later to Topsham and to Yarmouth Academy, where he finally "fitted for college." During his vacations he spent some time at home on the farm although he emphasizes in a letter to his son, Lawrence, the fact that two bequests from his father and grandfather amounting to five hundred dollars were the "basis of his education," the rest he had to earn, and much of it was earned teaching school in the vacation periods and early part of term time, so that vacation meant work for the lad almost from the time that he first left home.

While he was at Kents Hill and Topsham and Yarmouth, he spent some time with his grandfather and grandmother Otis and his Uncle John Otis at that time a member of Congress, whose house with its wealth of books and more urban furnishing seemed a "palatial" residence as he states in a letter written in 1892.

He matriculated at Bowdoin College in the old town of Brunswick, Maine, in September, 1855. During his freshman year he was seriously ill and had to go home to Leeds. On his recovery he was compelled to work very hard to make up for lost time, and also one winter taught school for several weeks, so that during his entire course he was compelled to do the regular work in not

more that two-thirds the time his class-mates had, still he had time to make many friends both among his class-mates and the faculty.

He had a natural liking for music and a good singing voice which he had some opportunity to develop in college, and he was also prominent in the college debates, but was handicapped by illness and the necessity of earning his support to such an extent that although studious and persistent he did not rank specially high in scholarship.

The one of his professors to whom he was most strongly attached, and who seems to have been a strong influence at this time, was Professor A.S. Packard, who held the chair of Greek.

He was also a member of the Psi Upsilon fraternity and remembered that connection pleasantly all his life.

The following is an expression of his interest and loyalty from a letter written in 1892. It was written to his son, Lawrence, while on a railroad train going from Bangor to Boston, when he expected to go abroad because of the illness in Rome of his brother, Rowland, a plan never consummated because of his brother's death.

“Here we are in Brunswick, and there would be no end of reminiscences connected with my four years' stay here in college from 1855 to 1859. . . I hear that Bowdoin has just received a bequest from an alumnus. I do not expect ever to give her an endowment of money, but I am not insensible of the debt her sons owe to her and to those who in the early history of this century founded by their liberality and by the Christian consecration of their means, so beneficent an institution. Bowdoin has been true to her mission to give a thorough foundation of education, accompanied by positive Christian influences, to the sons of New England. Among them are some brilliantly distinguished names, such as Longfellow and Hawthorne, the Abbotts (historians), Franklin Pierce, Senator Pitt Fessenden, and omitting many distinguished jurists, lawyers, clergymen, physicians, etc., I may come to our own times and find the Chief Justice of the U. S. a Bowdoin graduate, the head of the Life Saving Service another, and several foremost generals of the Civil War. It may seem dry reading to you, but it means much to me who have known most of these men and seen how they have made their mark on the pages of the country’s history . . .”

After graduating from college with the class of 1859, his health never very rugged, required attention and he went to a “water cure,” a rather primitive sanitarium at Keene, N. H., and while there was invited by his older brother (then Lieutenant O. O. Howard) to join him at West Point, where he was an instructor in mathematics, and was able to promise opportunities for tutoring. Here Charles made a number of friends, the most intimate of whom was John Weir, then a young man himself, and later a celebrated painter and a member of the faculty of Yale University. Always sensitive and appreciative, the influence of the artist made a strong impression, and all his life he showed a keen appreciation of natural beauty and referred often to the debt he owed Professor Weir.

Here, too, he had his first introduction to military life, which also made its impression on him,

and though at the time he had no expectations of ever using them, his familiarity with military terms and methods proved of considerable value to him when he became a soldier and doubtless made his rapid promotion possible.

In the fall of 1860, having decided to enter the ministry he followed the example of his next older brother, Rowland, and entered Bangor Theological Seminary. Rowland B. Howard was already in the ministry which profession he followed till his death in 1892. He had graduated from the seminary the year before and naturally knew the professors and some of the people of Bangor to whom he introduced his brother.

Americus Fuller, then a young student and afterwards a missionary to Turkey, and a life-long friend and correspondent, was his room-mate.

Among his social acquaintances were Judge Jacob McGaw, one of the leaders of the Bar of the State of Maine, then over seventy years of age, and his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Foster. This was his first opportunity of knowing their daughter, Miss Mary Catherine Foster, then a girl of fifteen, who became a member of his Sunday School class and afterwards his wife.

CHAPTER II THE CIVIL WAR

THE few months that he remained in the theological seminary also had their effect in developing the serious religious trend of his nature and he very nearly became a minister of the gospel, but fate had other plans. Grim-visaged war was threatening our country and Charles Howard was not one to disregard the nation's call. In April, 1861, Ft. Sumter was fired on, war at once became the all-absorbing topic among the students and the whole nation was soon up in arms.

At this crisis he received a telegram from his brother, Otis, just then raised to the rank of Colonel by the governor of his state, calling him to Augusta to assist in recruiting a regiment. He left at once and instead of returning to his studies, wrote back to his room-mate that he was enlisting in the Third Maine Regiment of Volunteer Infantry.

He plunged into the work with all the sincerity, patriotism and ardor of his nature and was very shortly appointed to his brother's staff where he remained through many vicissitudes, defeats and victorious promotions, changes of armies and associates for nearly four years.

The details of equipping and preliminary instructions in drilling were hurriedly completed and the regiment entrained for Washington, D. C., on June 5, 1861.

Arriving at the national capital they were hurried to the front to join Gen. McDowell's army and shortly afterwards these raw, untrained recruits with many thousands of others equally inexperienced were given their first baptism of fire in the disastrous First Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861.

When the half-trained troops were stampeded into a disorderly rout, Charles Howard, although not yet a commissioned officer, showed the real stuff that was in him by drawing his revolver and threatening the men with death if they did not halt and reform the battle line. By this display of courage and personality he was able to check a considerable body of men and withdraw in good order from the lost battlefield.

Military Record

His official military record may properly be inserted at this point. Enlisted in the 3rd Maine Vol. Infantry, June 4, 1861, where he served till he was transferred from 3rd Me. Vol. Inf., and mustered into the 61st N. Y. Infantry (Veteran), composed largely of N. Y. City Astor Reg. of Rifles, and Clinton Guards. Co. C Students, Madison Univ., at Hamilton. As 2d Lt., Company A., Jan. 24, 1862. (Formed of Clinton Guards.) Wounded in action June 1, 1862, at Fair Oaks, Va.; mustered in as 1st Lt., Oct. 10, 1862; discharged May 28, '63 for promotion to Major and Aide-de-Camp, U. S. Vols. Appointed Aide-de-Camp with rank of Major, Apr. 25, '63.

Commissioned 2d Lt., Feb. 24, '62, with rank from Jan. 24, '62.

Commissioned 1st Lt., Nov. 17,'62, with rank from Oct. 10 (p. 2566, Vol. III), and Roll of Honor, Vol. I, p. 395.

Commissioned Major Apr. 25, 1863.

May 4-Appointed Inspector Gen. 4th Army Corps with rank of Lieut. Col. and Col. Lieutenant Col. and Col. by Brevet Mar. 13, 1865. Commissioned Colonel Apr. 6, 1865.

Colonel, 128th U. S. Colored Infantry; Brig. Gen. by brevet for faithful and meritorious services, to date from Aug. 15, 1865. Mustered in as Colonel, 128th U. S. Col'd Inf., Apr. 6, 1865; mustered out with regiment, Jan. 1, 1868.

Brig. Gen. U. S. Vol., by brevet from Aug. 15, 1865 (Vol. V, p. 4187) .

His service, it will be seen, extended over seven years of active service, embracing over two years of reconstruction service.

In a volume of this character it is impossible to give any detailed account of this long and soul-racking period of struggle and stress.

He took part in sixty-seven battles and engagements with their mingled record of pain, sorrow and death, defeat and victory, accomplishment, elation and satisfaction in duty done. A partial list of the larger of them follows:

Principal Battles

Bull Run.
Williamsburg.
Fair Oaks.
South Mountain.
Antietam.
Fredericksburg.
Chancellorsville.
Gettysburg.
Wauhatchie.
Chattanooga.
Missionary Ridge.
Dalton.
Resaca.
Cassville.
Picketts Mill.
Kalbs Farm.
Kenesaw Mountain.
Smyrna Camp Ground.
Peach Tree Creek.

Atlanta.
The March to the Sea. (Including a large number of engagements.)
Ezra Church.
Jonesboro.
Lovejoy's Station.
Allatoona.
Ft. McAllister.
Savannah.

He was mentioned thirty-eight times in his brother's biography, always in commendation of some act of special loyalty, service or courage.

It is impossible too in the present volume to even attempt anything like a complete record of his personal experiences.

A few outstanding incidents to which he refers in his letters home during the war and his articles and addresses before Army reunions and other audiences in later years, may be briefly described.

At the battle of Fredericksburg, Va., December 13, 14 and 15, 1862, his brother, who had now become a general officer, sent Charles, a mounted aide on his staff, with orders through the main street of the town while enemy sharpshooters were firing from the windows of buildings on both sides of the street. By some miracle of Providence, Lieutenant Howard passed through the rain of fire and delivered the orders though he received a shell wound in his leg.

At the battle of Fair Oaks, General O. O. Howard spied the horse he knew to be his brother's, riderless, and though himself seriously wounded, his alarm lest his brother be lost was only relieved when he later found him in the same negro cabin with himself, where he had been brought in from the field. Here, in an improvised field hospital, the General's right arm was amputated. Charles, suffering from bullet wounds in the thigh, was put on a cot and both were carried to a north-bound train. A night in New York City was spent at the old Astor House where Mrs. Paran Stevens the wife of the proprietor, cared for the young heroes and saw them off on a train for Maine. The stretcher covered with linen bearing the Astor House name was long a keepsake in the attic of the Howard home in Glencoe. Another night was spent at Lewiston. Maine, the travel by train being very painful to the wounded soldier. An unnamed and unknown volunteer nurse whom he described as a "ministering angel" cared for him in the hotel at Lewiston, dropping ice water on the inflamed wound all night, so reducing the fever and in all probability thus saved the young officer's life and certainly his right leg. For over forty years he was reminded of that wound whenever there was a "change in the weather."

During his convalescence Lieutenant Howard visited Bangor and renewed his acquaintance with Miss Foster (and her friend, Miss Robina MacRuer, the gifted daughter of Dr. MacRuer, the Fosters' family physician). Miss MacRuer, learning of the officer's arrival at the home of General Stevens, full of patriotic enthusiasm, invited young Miss Foster to call with her upon the returned hero. To their complete surprise they found at the Stevens home that the guest was not the famous general, but his less distinguished but no less heroic younger brother, Miss Foster’s

former teacher.

General Howard regained his strength rapidly after his arm was amputated and, while the lieutenant was still confined to his room, was making speeches throughout the state and aroused great enthusiasm for the Union Cause.

After three months at home, Lieutenant Howard returned to the front and was at once promoted to a First Lieutenancy in the 61st N. Y. Volunteers and was "Senior Aide of Division Staff" at the battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862. In April, 1863, he received his commission as Major. This commission, bearing the historic signature of Abraham Lincoln, was always one of his most prized possessions.

The Eleventh Corps, of which General O. O. Howard was the head, was transferred to the Army of Tennessee and took part in the campaigns of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg and in the relief of Knoxville. General Howard and his brother also had a part in the campaigns near Chattanooga. One night at Lookout Mountain, when all others were asleep, Charles was up and awake (writing to his occasional correspondent, Miss Kitty Foster, so saith the family tradition) all at once his attention was diverted by the unmistakable sound of marching men, he gave the alarm, roused the Union Army and was able to turn a surprise attack into a warm and fiery repulse.

Gettysburg

Gettysburg was one of the battles of which he talked freely and with sustained interest and wrote full descriptions for publication and for addresses before the Loyal Legion and other military societies. He was Chief of Staff for his brother, Gen. O. O. Howard, during that battle and was in the thick of the fight and under heavy fire for three days.

During the first day, after Gen. Reynolds death, about ten in the morning, Gen. O. O. Howard was in command of the field, with instructions from Gen. Meade to hold the enemy in check until the Union Army could get into position, this he did by putting up a vigorous resistance against the tremendous odds of more than two to one, thus convincing the enemy that they were opposed by a much larger force than was actually the case, and withdrew his army as slowly as possible to the strong position he had chosen for the final conflict. This was the famous Cemetery Ridge, where he placed his reserve artillery and which was the great strategic point on which the battle was successfully fought, and for choosing which Gen. O. O. Howard received the thanks of Congress. Gen. Charles was wont to revert to the first day at Gettysburg as the really crucial point of the battle. The Union troops under Howard were parts of two army corps which were ordered into the fight at once, but in some instances some of the expected troops were many hours late. Meanwhile the plan of defending the ridge was successfully developed, the troops fell back slowly and were placed in the positions planned and which they continued to occupy successfully for two days, till the shattered forces of Lee's great army were withdrawn across the Potomac. During those three days Charles Howard was almost constantly under fire and his experiences included numerous hair-breadth escapes, to which his brother alludes in his memoirs, but which he himself never mentioned. In a monograph on the First Day at Gettysburg, read before the Loyal Legion, he carefully analyzed the sequence of orders and events and gave his brother great credit for his conduct of the great battle.

Shortly after the battle of Gettysburg he went west with the Eleventh Corps and fought in the battles of the Tennessee and Cumberland Mountains, leading up to Grant's campaign of Chattanooga and Mission Ridge.

The united armies of the Tennessee and Cumberland, advancing toward Atlanta under Generals Sherman and Thomas, were engaged in many skirmishes and some pitched battles. By this time Major General O. O. Howard was the army commander of the entire left wing of Sherman's army and Major Charles Howard was his adjutant general. At this time Major Howard wrote that they were entering upon a campaign in which they would be entirely cut off from their friends for some time.

CHAPTER III A MESSAGE TO LINCOLN

THEN began Sherman's famous march from Atlanta to the Sea, during which the whole nation was kept in suspense for over a month. Arriving at Savannah on December 24, 1864, they established communication with the Federal Navy. General Sherman sent his famous dispatch to Lincoln saying, "I present Savannah as a Christmas gift." Then he sent Major Howard by boat to Fortress Monroe and thence by rail to Washington to take first hand information to the President. Early on New Year's morning, 1865, the young officer arrived in Washington and hastened to the White House where he found assembled many men whom he recognized as persons of distinction waiting for an audience with the President, though it was still very early. He supposed he would have to wait his turn for an interview, but upon sending in his card on which he had penciled, "From Sherman's Army," President Lincoln summoned him at once into the room where he was shaving. The President's face was lathered and but one side shaved. With a quizzical smile he asked Major Howard to be seated while he finished shaving. Then, taking his seat beside him and holding the hand of the young man in both his large hands, Lincoln inquired warmly for the officers of Sherman's army, including General O. O. Howard whom he said he loved.

To quote from General Howard's own description

> "I remember how he towered above me in height and how this unusual tallness impressed me then as never before, though I had already met him twice when he at different times visited the Army of the Potomac. He sat beside me on the sofa and put me quite at my ease by his generous words of Sherman and his army and his especially kind mention of my immediate commander. Then followed a most informal talk as to how he himself and the country had evidently been more anxious about Sherman's army than they were for themselves and questions as to the difficulties and experiences of the march and how they were met. The solicitude and thoughtful interest expressed seemed to be of that personal and heartfelt kind that a father might feel for his own sons, rather than those of the official head of the Government for the officers and soldiers subject to his authority.
>
> "The thought that there had been any great anxiety for the safety of Sherman's army was new to me. But as a matter of fact no direct word had come from our army from the date of leaving Atlanta, November 15, for a whole month. The great army, which was bound by the subtle and unseen, but no less powerful, bonds of sympathy and affection to their own sixty thousand northern homes, and in scarcely less degree to hundreds of thousands more, was hidden from view and totally lost to the President and the country during all this time.
>
> "Newspapers from the Confederacy had reported Sherman's army "harassed, defeated, starving and fleeing for safety to the coast." Two days after our departure from Atlanta, B. H. Hill, of the Confederate Senate, in an appeal to the people of Georgia, countersigned by the Confederate Secretary of War, said: "You have now

> the best opportunity ever yet presented to destroy the enemy. Put everything at the disposal of our generals; remove all provisions from the path of the invader and put all obstructions in his path. Every citizen with his gun and every negro with his spade and axe, can do the work of a soldier. You can destroy the enemy by retarding his march." All the Georgia members of the Confederate Congress signed a similar address which was published in their papers and so finally in the northern newspapers. This, after calling upon "every man to fly to arms," said "Remove your negroes, horses, cattle and provisions from Sherman's army and burn what you cannot carry. Burn all bridges and block up the roads in his route. Assail the invader in front, flank and rear, by night and day."
>
> "With no news of our actual condition and with these confident and presumptuous orders telegraphed over the country, and especially with the false reports declaring positive disaster to Sherman's troops, issued, no doubt, to keep up the morale of Lee's army, it is easy now to understand that President Lincoln not only expressed what was weighing upon his own mind, but also upon the minds of probably millions of other patriotic citizens."

This meeting with the great Lincoln was, of course, a never-to-be-forgotten event, one of the great experiences of a lifetime to the young army officer. In later years General Howard often related this incident, dwelling on the great kindness of President Lincoln, the intense sadness of his great deep-set eyes and his air of weariness and responsibility.

After a trip to Maine, Major Howard returned to Washington and from there was ordered to Beaufort, S. C., to raise and train two regiments of colored troops. In addition to the usual military drill, Major Howard felt a responsibility for their future and tried to make better citizens of them by teaching them to read and write.

In the spring of 1865, having received his commission as Colonel of the 128th Colored Troops, he was ordered to bring the regiment to New York aboard a steamer carrying cotton. Unfortunately the steamer caught fire when they were about half way to their destination, but Col. Howard was equal to the occasion and ordered his raw, ignorant colored troops to man the pumps and fight the flames already beyond control of the crew. The ship was saved and steamed up New York Harbor a prize snatched from total destruction by the courage and determination of the young northern colonel and his control over his brave but untrained troops.

Returning to New York on orders to proceed to South Carolina, he found that his best plan was to take the steamer which was to carry a party of notables who were going down to raise the flag again on Fort Sumter. Among them was General (formerly Major) Anderson, the gallant officer, who, under a heavy bombardment, had been compelled to pull down the flag at the beginning of the war. Others in the party were Henry Ward Beecher, Theodore Cuyler and various members of Congress.

This occasion was an impressive patriotic ceremony which he often mentioned in his reminiscences. His lecture on "Men I Have Met" excelled in vividness of portrayal. The last portion describing the raising of the flag at Sumter seemed to carry the listeners back through the long chain of years to that

historic 14th of April, 1865, when the old fort that just four years before had witnessed the first shot of war, now witnessed the formal raising of the flag - the same flag that Major Anderson had lowered in 1861 - a flag not one of whose stars had been obliterated in the storms of battle, our own stars and stripes that the heroic Anderson on this day restored to its old position over the historic Sumter. As the lecture stated, after an eloquent description of Henry Ward Beecher's address of that day in 1865, the preservation of the stars in the flag at Sumter was a prophecy that the Union was to live and though assailed by bitter war was not to lose a single state.

To quote from the General's own words:

> "As the old smoke stained, shot pierced flag rose slowly upwards and its folds were caught by the ocean breeze the whole multitude, citizens, soldiers, officers, filling not only the interior, but covering the sandy slopes and the parapet of the fort, spontaneously rose to their feet and shouted in wild exultation till the flag was in its place at the mast head. Then broke out the song:
>
> " `The star spangled banner, O long may it wave
> O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.'
>
> while the national salute thundered forth from the guns on the parapet of Sumter and resounded in echoing re-echoing reply from every fort and rebel battery which had, on that ill-starred day of four years before, fired on the devoted fort."

Almost immediately following came the tragic news of the assassination of President Lincoln, which shocked and saddened the nation and the entire world and profoundly depressed Colonel Howard, whose work for several years was to be among the colored beneficiaries of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.

After several months of hard work training the colored troops at Beaufort, S. C., Col. Howard went to Washington to engage in the work of the Freedmen's Bureau, of which General O. O. Howard was the head, at the request of President Lincoln. In August 1865, he received the title of Brevet-Brigadier General and was thereafter called General Howard.

CHAPTER IV COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

THE brief acquaintance begun in Bangor in 1861 with Miss Mary Catherine Foster, then a girl of fifteen, was destined to be another of the controlling motives of his life. In the early days of the war his military work of drilling thousands of untrained men occupied practically all of his time and only an occasional formal letter marked the progress of the real romance of his life. Even as late as the winter of 1863-64 when he was sent north on service connected with the exchange of Confederate prisoners at Camp Douglas at Chicago, and knew that Miss Foster was no further away than Milwaukee, the young officer, so brave on the field of battle, apparently lacked the courage to ask for a meeting and returned to the front without seeing her.

She was not allowed to forget him, however, and relates an incident of that visit in Milwaukee, when a speaker in one of the churches called him by name and told of his bravery under fire when Lieutenant Howard knelt calmly in prayer, apparently unmindful of the sounds of conflict or the possibility of being struck by the flying bullets.

After the fall of Savannah in December, 1864, and the interview with President Lincoln described elsewhere, Major Howard (he had been promoted) journeyed to Maine again, going home to see his mother (who had lost her husband, Col. Gilmore, during the time her sons were with Gen. Sherman on the famous march from Atlanta to the Sea) and incidentally taking a pony as a present for his brother's oldest son, Guy.

Stopping over in Boston, he was the guest of the Reverend Dr. Webb, pastor of the Shawmut Avenue Church. Miss Foster was also in Boston at the time, visiting her cousin, Mrs. Sprague, and whether by accident or design, the young people met on Sunday morning in the aisle of Dr. Webb's church. Their mutual pleasure was undeniable and Mrs. Sprague increased the happiness of two people by inviting the Major to call.

That occasion and the impression made on the young girl by the dashing officer, just from the battlefields of the south, whom she describes as "wearing the blue of the old army uniform with a cape, the corner of which turned back to show a lining of dotted blue and white" was a turning point in both their lives and started a more regular correspondence between them.

But this was no time for lingering and his mission carried him on to Maine. At Augusta, the state capital, he met "the Honorable" John B. Foster of Bangor, a member of the State Senate, and later of the governor's council, whose permission to pay his addresses to his daughter was asked and granted.

Soon he returned to Boston and they spent a happy evening together, attending a concert which she remembers was given by an English boy soprano, but the young lady was not yet ready to say the word.

And even yet, such are the mysteries of the feminine heart, on his next visit home when he made a trip to Bangor all that Miss Foster vouchsafed was to “graciously delay going to a luncheon given

to raise funds for patriotic purposes, receive her caller cordially and permit him to accompany her to the luncheon." But when, after a brief stay, he returned to his home in Leeds he sent her "a never-to-be-forgotten" box of trailing arbutus, the "May flowers" so full of meaning to the true New Englander.

The following summer he again visited Bangor and this time success crowned his efforts, for he proposed and was accepted on the evening of August 27th while driving home from a picnic on "Black Cap Mountain," which has been famous in the family annals as an ideal spot for picnics ever since.

They were married on December 5, 1867, in the fine old home on Broadway. Many friends gathered at the wedding, some coming from long distances.

The beauty of the bride is much more than a tradition and with it was a beauty of character as well that has lasted through all the years. The bride's attendants were her sister, Nina, and her life-long friend, Caroline Stetson; those of the groom were Colonel Alexander Ketchum, a friend and companion-at-arms, and Francis A. Foster of Boston, a cousin of the bride.

Anyone who is familiar with the Maine climate will appreciate the statement that "In zero weather, the following morning, coaches on runners were used to take the wedding party to the train."

General and Mrs. O. O. Howard and Mr. and Mrs. William H. Merrick traveled with them as far as New York, and a few days later the bride and groom visited at the beautiful home of the Merricks at Germantown. Going on to Washington they made their first home at 19th and G. Streets, not far from General O. O. Howard's residence.

That first year in Washington was full of interest. There were many opportunities to meet distinguished people and to hear notable speeches. Sometimes the young "General" (who by this time had been promoted to a Colonel, and brevetted Brigadier General of Volunteers) was able to take his beautiful bride into the Senate Chamber to hear interesting debates or into various committee meetings where she met many distinguished men. They called upon General and Mrs. Grant in their home, and were received by Secretary Chase and his daughter, Kate Chase Sprague, whose reputation as a brilliant and gracious hostess remained a tradition in Washington for many years and belongs to the history of the period.

In the work of the Freedmen's Bureau, to which both brothers had been assigned by President Lincoln, they sometimes received unsolicited tributes from their colored wards. On one occasion an old man praying in a large assembly, petitioned for General Howard that "the Lord won't let nothin' heavy fall a top of him, and I pray for his brother and I pray for him more now that he is married."

The two brothers were active in establishing the colored people in homes there in Washington and in places further north. They were interested in the Congregational church and assisted in its organization there in the Capital. Then both took part in founding a college for the higher education of negroes and the name Howard University was given it in honor of General O. O. Howard.

On a visit to Harper's Ferry, known as the scene of John Brown's raid, and to Charleston, W. Va., where he was hanged, the young couple came in contact with the Ku Klux Klan. Going to a hotel in the latter place after visiting a school for negroes taught by a former friend and schoolmate of "General Charles," as he was familiarly called, they found a letter bearing the skull and crossbones, the insignia of the "Klan" and saying only, "this night thy soul shall be required of thee." The young wife asked what he was going to do about it. Charles replied, "I've seen that text a good many times," and made no change in his plans.

His work of speaking and organizing took General Howard to various places in W. Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, and at times the little group of white people upon the platform would look upon a veritable sea of black faces. In the city of Washington the negroes had crowded into a slum known as "Murder Bay." From this it was the General's duty to persuade or force them if necessary, to move to better, more sanitary quarters provided by the government. Barry Farm, one of the colonies for Freedmen, provided building materials, tools and at times the use of a team of horses; Lincoln Barracks offered them houses with water and decent rooms, but in spite of these comforts of civilization it was hard to get the primitive, half-civilized ex-slave to give up his crowded and filthy quarters.

Many were the incidents of this happy winter that the children heard at their mother's knee.

This winter of 1867-68 saw the "Impeachment trial" of President Andrew Johnson. "General Charles" and his bride attended some of the sessions of this trial. One day, Mrs. Howard, sitting in the diplomatic gallery, listened to Chief Justice Chase administering the oath to the Senate Committee who were to try the president. A fine looking woman who came in to sit beside her inquired the identity of each member and on hearing who they were entertained Mrs. Howard with her pat remarks. The oath administered to Senator Sprague, son-in-law to the Chief justice, she called the "family oath," that to the portly Senator Morgan was the "elephantine oath," etc. This witty lady proved to be Jessie Benton Fremont, whose father wrote "Thirty Years in the United States Senate," and whose husband was General Fremont.

On one occasion at General O. O. Howard's home, General W. T. Sherman lived up to his reputation for brusqueness as well as kindliness. He was making a New Year's call and being introduced to the bride said, "Are you Charlie's wife? Where did he find you?"

CHAPTER V THE FAMILY MOVE WEST

AFTER two winters in Washington, the specific work of the Freedmen's bureau being completed, The American Missionary Association offered an opportunity to General Charles Howard to continue work in behalf of the negroes. He accepted a position as Western Secretary of the "A. M. A." and moved his residence to Chicago. The new work included visiting and establishing schools among the Chinese in California, the Indians on their reservations and the Negroes in the southern states. He took his young wife with him on a trip to California in 1869, leaving a year-old boy at home in Chicago. At this time there was but one railroad across the continent, the Union Pacific. General and Mrs. Howard traveled by stage through the redwood forests to Santa Cruz and later by stage and horseback into the Yosemite Valley.

In June 1871, the Howards moved to Glencoe, Illinois, thus escaping the Chicago fire in October 1871, though the General's office was destroyed at that time. Glencoe was then a village of perhaps a dozen houses owned by a group of their friends of similar taste and ideals, several of them from the Union Park Church in Chicago, and included the families of Professor S. C. Bartlett of the Chicago Theological Seminary, Dr. John Nutt, Dr. John Starr, Mr. S. T. Lockwood, Dr. Alexander Hammond, A. H. and Parker Hovey, John A. Owen, Frederick and Franklin Newhall, the Willmarths and others. It was a primitive little village by the lake in the big north woods, an hour's ride from Chicago, with only two or three trains a day each way. But the home they founded was destined to be a family homestead for more than fifty years. It was the birthplace of six children-the oldest son was born in Washington. The little frame church was built by the original company that built the first houses and in 1872 the Congregational Church of Glencoe was organized. Professor S. C. Bartlett, who was General Howard’s nearest neighbor to the south, was its first minister, and later became President of Dartmouth College, and General Howard was a deacon from its organization until his death in 1908. In all the various duties of a citizen he took his part whether in connection with schools or village government, not from any liking for politics or public life, but because of his strong sense of duty to the community.

About this time, 1870-71, he bought the "Advance," a weekly paper, the organ of the Congregational church in the west. From the days of his study in Bangor Theological Seminary he had kept up his interest in the work of the church and now he found a congenial means of expressing that interest. He enlisted as contributors many distinguished writers, poets, ministers and authors of fiction. The cause of missions in this country and abroad was especially near to his heart and he used the columns of the "Advance" to further its interests. The educational work was of great and vital interest to General Howard and the success of the publication was assured during his ownership. The work, however, was confining and he put into it so much of his energy and strength that after about ten years his health required a change. He therefore sold the "Advance" and was appointed by President Garfield, Inspector of Indian Agencies under the then Secretary of the Interior, Secretary S. J. Kirkwood, and later under Secretary Henry M. Teller. This work required constant travel and much time spent out of doors and was of great interest to him as well as of great physical benefit.

Work for the Indians

The schools on the Indian Reservations came under his care and he was able to accomplish much that was of value to the Indians educationally. Then, too, he helped them materially. In one case on the edge of winter, finding a tribe on the Assiniboine Reservation actually near to starvation owing to the disappearance of the buffalo and lack of attention from the government, he made a special trip to Washington, appeared before Congress, got an increased appropriation and arranged to have the government issue special rations to them, undoubtedly saving many lives.

One of his trips took General Howard through the Pueblo, Pima, Maricopa and Apache Reservations of the southwest. He took Mrs. Howard and their eldest son, then fourteen years old, with him. Not far from the Pima Agency at Casa Grande, Arizona, the party visited the prehistoric ruin built of adobe and with wooden rafters which archaeologists find are of wood which has not grown in that region within the memory of man and which are hewn by stone implements showing the actual marks of the stone axes.

Indians on the warpath gave them a scare when their fourteen-year-old son was off on a hunting trip, spending a night in camp. News came in the very early morning that a white family living not far away had been massacred by the hostile Apaches and soldiers were sent out to bring in the hunting party. They were soon brought in safe, but the Indian raiders escaped over the border.

This incident and others convinced General Howard of the need of military guards along the Mexican border. Later he made a thorough investigation and recommended the stationing of army posts at intervals in order to prevent "renegades" and hostile Indians from passing back and forth over the border and stirring up trouble among tribes in this country which otherwise would be peaceable and law-abiding. This recommendation was later confirmed and adopted as a permanent policy by the War Department.

On one of the trips of inspection among the tribes in Northern Montana, he was compelled to drive for weeks across the plains exposed to the extreme cold of the northwest winter. He procured a buffalo skin coat and huge moccasins and robes for protection and the family long remembered the adventure and treasured the buffalo skin robes and many Indian curios brought from that region. One of these skins was tanned by the Indians a rich mahogany color on the inside and another was pictured with the history of the tribe in gay colors. An unusual collection of beaded pouches, bands and moccasins, buckskin bow and arrow case, knife sheaths, and red sandstone

pipe bowls and many quaint types of pottery were among the Indian curios that commemorate these years of service among the Indians.

Such service was near to the heart of General Howard and was in his mind related to his American Missionary Association work and to the missionary work of the Riggs family with whom he was in close touch for many years, particularly Dr. Stephen A. Riggs, pioneer missionary among the Sioux Indians, who translated the Bible into the Dakota language, and his son, Thomas Lawrence Riggs, who worked with him in the A. M. A. and who married Nina Foster, Mrs. Howard's younger sister.

Another chapter of valuable work for the Indians was at the "Lake Mohonk Conferences" of friends of the Indians which General and Mrs. Howard attended for many years and which Mr. T. L. Riggs also attended. Here they met many people whose influence has meant much in bringing about reforms in Indian affairs, philanthropists and men in political life, an association of rare privilege and pleasure to people whose sympathies with the Indians were such as those of our General and his brother. Here, in an atmosphere of unusual beauty and congeniality, many problems were discussed and simplified and often solved in the best possible way. There were two of these conferences each year, one in the autumn for the benefit of all the "oppressed peoples" and one in the spring, "the Peace Conference," where a different, but even more important class of questions was brought before a similar group at Lake Mohonk. International Arbitration was, up to the time of the Great World War, the subject of the spring conference and until as late as the year 1905 General Howard wrote many valuable articles on these subjects and published reports of these conferences.

Experiences as a Publisher

At the end of his term as Indian Inspector - 1883-1886, for one year he was western manager of the National Tribune, a publication with a large circulation representing the interests of the ex-soldiers of the Civil war. From 1887 until 1905 General Howard was the publisher and editor in chief of an agricultural paper. He purchased the "Farm, Field and Stockman," and soon afterward changed its name to "Farm, Field and Fireside." His son, Otis McGaw, was associated with him in this business during a considerable part of this period, and during the years 1899 to 1905 his daughter, Nina Foster, was on the editorial staff.

This publication was to General Howard the means of expressing to a large circle of readers his views on all vital matters, philanthropic, political, philosophical and

practical. He saw the coming need of scientific farming and published a series of books on agriculture, which were among the first to turn the attention of the farmers to a more complete, scientific knowledge of their work. His great interest in the welfare of the farm population, whom he respected above all classes of citizens, led him to assist in colonizing new sections and taking long journeys to assure himself of the advantages of the land to be opened for agriculturists. All of these were profitable and successful for the settlers and to a moderate degree for the promoters. This interest also led him to espouse their cause when in 1896 he felt that "intrenched capital," the money power, was becoming unjustly oppressive to the farmer.

To one who had from its beginning identified himself with the Republican party and its principles the cause must lave been to him indeed a serious one that would estrange him and lead him to vote for the candidate of the Democratic party. But General Howard believed and said that the Republican party of that day no longer championed the American people, was no longer true to its standards, so, hard as it was for him, he felt that loyalty to right and justice required that he forsake the party which had been his from its foundation and in 1896 to vote for William J. Bryan.

In the height of a hard fought political campaign he was subjected to very severe criticism and even some social ostracism, but he never allowed these things to interfere with his happiness or to change his attitude of support for what he believed to be the best interest of the American people.

When the campaign was over he accepted the political verdict without bitterness and in the same kindly spirit and supported McKinley and Roosevelt in the following election.

General Howard and the New Trier High School[1]

In April, 1899, the people of New Trier Township voted to establish a Township High School - elected a board of education having five members, of whom Gen. Charles H. Howard became the first president. He was elected and re-elected by the people and continued a member of the board for six years, when he declined further re-election. Previously the schools had always been organized by districts and each village had formed a district and maintained a "high school room" as the finishing of its public school system.

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[1] From an. Address by Hon. Merritt E. Starr

The five villages of the township with a population of about 10,000, took the benefit of the law of 1891 authorizing them to form a union district for high school purposes. This union of districts had been one of the chief reforms advocated by Horace Mann as state superintendent of Massachusetts in the thirties and forties - and it was fortunate for New Trier that its first board had for president a New Englander born in the midst of the reform movement, a man of liberal education and wide experience as an administrator and inspector of schools. His work as inspector of Indian schools and officer of the American Missionary Association during the period when it was building schools on the frontier and in the South, as well as his personal experience as a teacher early in life, had especially fitted him for the work before the new board. He had at once the New England college ideal of education and the deep appreciation of the needs of the "real school" which will fit the child for his work as a man, a citizen and a member of society. He understood the full force of Horace Mann's arguments that in the higher studies at any rate, the small districts were duplicating work and wasting energy and resources which, if concentrated into one, would be able to multiply the opportunities for all the children and was convinced that the Township Union High School should present those multiplied opportunities. He urged upon the board and people the establishment of a school which should enable the pupil either to prepare for college or acquire the modern languages, manual training, business training, training in the physical, biological and domestic sciences and in history, literature, rhetoric and music, or such part of these as seemed advisable.

His many-sided nature and keen appreciation of modern needs as well as of ancient wisdom prompted this wide and thorough development.

Not all these branches of study were undertaken at first, but before the General's six years of work were finished all were well established.

During the first year the board organized, submitted to the people in accordance with law, the selection of a site, the permission to build and the issuing of $60,000 of bonds; issued and sold the bonds, bought the ground, selected the architect and plans and let the contract for building.

During the second year they erected the building, finishing two floors for use, laid out the course of study and employed the faculty. In February 1901, the school opened with five teachers and seventy pupils.

The building was designed upon the Assembly Hall plan with a central assembly

room for all the pupils to sit together at their studies, and small recitation rooms where each class recited separately. Ten such class rooms were finished and in use during the first year; the successive years witnessed the gradual completion of the building with assembly hall and fifteen class rooms; the assembling of a library of 1,200 volumes, the equipment of five laboratories (one each in chemistry, physics, biology, manual training and domestic science) involving in all an investment of $150,000, the expansion of the course of study as heretofore indicated, and increase in faculty and students, so that in April, 1905, the enrollment showed twelve teachers and 179 Pupils.

And the momentum of the work and devotion of the people to the school were; such that it has continued to progress in the spirit in which it was planted.

The school will be a permanent monument, physical and intellectual, to General Howard's public spirit, his far-sightedness and educational interest.

The great school stands today one of the greatest institutions of its kind in the country and grown far beyond the original plans, but not beyond the ideals of education for which General Howard stood.

CHAPTER VI LATER YEARS

FOR many years General Howard's health required that he should go to a warmer climate for part of the winter. He planted an orange grove near San Mateo, Florida, and spent usually two months or more working there. In Florida, also, he started one of the colonies promoted in his paper, the Farm, Field and Fireside. Another colony was in Louisiana, one in North Carolina and another in California. The last was named Fair Oaks as was his beautiful home in Glencoe. Fair Oaks was appropriate to both because of the fine oak trees, and also because the name commemorated the battle where both he and his brother were severely wounded.

The library at Fair Oaks was his pride and joy. For throughout the years of his editorial work on the Advance and on the Farm, Field and Fireside, he collected many books. It was his pleasure to review the new books and to spend his leisure with new and older ones which were always dear friends to him. His taste was for biography, essays, and history rather than fiction, and his ambition was to have time to write at home.

Fair Oaks was a center of hospitality throughout his life there. His relatives and friends found always a welcome there around the open fireplace. To the end of his life he kept up the custom of New Year calls, preferring to call upon those who might otherwise feel neglected, as well as upon favorite friends. During the brief illness which was his last he was thinking and writing an address to be delivered on Lincoln's birthday, an occasion which always inspired him to his best efforts.

He numbered among his friends and had many personal experiences to relate of such men as Generals U. S. Grant, W. T. Sherman, Meade, Rosencrans, Hooker and McClellan; Presidents Hayes and Garfield; Lincoln and his Cabinet Ministers Salmon P. Chase and Edward M. Stanton. He also knew Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, Charles Sumner, John B. Gough, D. L. Moody, Robert Small, Henry Ward Beecher and many other prominent men of later date.

At the time of his death a friend wrote -"His grave courtesy, engaging voice and soldierly bearing remind one of the courtly old cavaliers of other days. To these he added a vigorous mind and keen ambitions, that were thoroughly American."

Simeon Gilbert who was his assistant for a number of years on the Advance said: "He had the courage of his sense of duty and from the hour of his first enlistment in the army, as in all the following years of his public service, wherever the path of duty shone clear before him, courage for him was as natural as breathing.

"He was a singularly delightful man to work with. For one thing “as iron sharpeneth iron;” then his rare ingenuousness, his almost genius for geniality of temper was apt to put another easily at his best. That was indeed a beautiful knack he had, would it were more common. The memory of it all I cannot forbear saying still “doth breed in me perpetual benediction.”

“Of General Howard's life here in his own suburban town with all its considerateness for others, its civic thoughtfulness, its activities, its idealization of the true neighborliness during these thirty years and more, there is no need for words; how well it is known, how long it will be gratefully remembered, and in how many ways did he manage, unwittingly it may have been, to put of the best and choicest qualities of his own spirit and life into the enduring life of the community.”

The Memorial Service held in the Church he served so long was attended by his comrades of the Loyal Legion and his body was covered by their flag, the Stars and Stripes he loved so well. Among those whose tributes meant much that day was one from one of his “boys” who twenty years before had been in his Sunday School class in that same Church and who had become a minister of that Gospel which he lived and loved.

General Howard's mother spent the last ten years of her life at Fair Oaks. The stone her sons had erected over their mother's grave in Rosehill Cemetery bears her name and that of her son, Charles Henry Howard, and his sons have added this inscription

"A Soldier of his Country and his God,
Great in his gentleness and devotion,
Great in his courage and loyalty,
Great in his love and self-sacrifice."